(b) If so, the salient features of the new liberalised FDI policy and objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Government, in its commitment towards economic reforms and in an effort to ensure foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow of US $ 10 billion per year, announced rationalisation and simplification in the procedures for FDI vide Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion's Press Note No. 2 (2000 series) dt. 11.2.2000, thereby placing all items/activities under the automatic route for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Non-Resident Indians (NRI) and Overseas Corporate Body (OCB) investment except the following:

1. All proposals that require an Industrial Licence which include (i) the item requiring an Industrial Licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951; (ii) foreign investment being more than 24% in the equity capital of units manufacturing items reserved for small scale industries; and (iii) all items which require an Industrial Licence in terms of the locational policy notified by Government under the New Industrial Policy of 1991.
2. All proposals in which the foreign collaborator has a previous venture/ tie-up in India. The modalities prescribed in Press Note No. 18 dated 14.12.1998 of 1998 series, shall apply in such cases.
3. All proposals relating to acquisition of shares in an existing Indian company in favour of a foreign/NRI/OCB investor.
4. All proposals falling outside notified sectoral policy/caps or under sectors in which FDI is not permitted and/or whenever any investor chooses to make an application to the FIPB and not to avail of the automatic route.

All proposals for investment in public sector units as also for EOU/EPZ/ EHTP/STP units would qualify for automatic route subject to above parameters.

Import of Wine

1841. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of wine is likely to be allowed through OGL route;

(b) whether it is also fact that this would make wine the only alcoholic beverage likely to be transferred to OGL; and

(c) if so, the reason therefor, since five star hotels are already allowed to import wine under special import licence?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Import of wine and other alcoholic beverages, as classified under Chapter 22 of ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997—2002, is presently restricted. In view of India's International Commitments, import restrictions on all items impose on account of balance of payment reasons are likely to be lifted latest by 31.03.2001. However, no decision has yet been taken regarding the change in import policy of wine or that of other alcoholic beverages.

Growth centres in Rajasthan

1842. SHRI RAM DAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of growth centres functioning at present in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) the number of growth centres proposed to be set up in the State during the Ninth Plan;

(c) the amount allocated by Government for the same;

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard till date; and

(e) whether any request from State Government of Rajasthan is pending for clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (d) Under the Growth Centre Scheme 71 growth centres are proposed to be developed through out the country with the Central assistance of Rs. 10 crore per growth centre (Rs. 15 crore in the case of North-Eastern States). Under this scheme, 5 Growth Centres have been approved in the State of Rajasthan which are at various stages of implementation. One growth centre at Bhilwara was approved during the Ninth Plan period. Following